



R & D NEWS



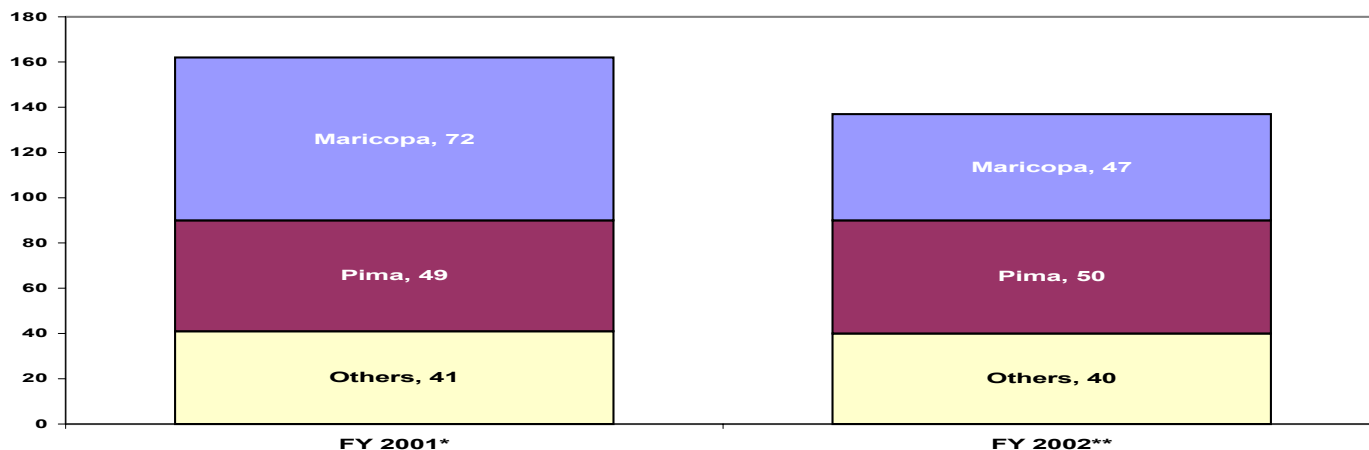
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ADJC MISDEMEANOR COMMITMENTS WITH NO PRIOR FELONY ADJUDICATIONS: BY COUNTY



* average length of stay was 180.5 days; **average length of stay was 203.7 days

Richard Felson and Dana Haynie, *Pubertal Development, Social Factors, and Delinquency Among Adolescent Boys*, *Criminology*, November 2002.

Felson and Haynie examine the relationship between the onset of puberty and delinquency. They note that it is well known that male delinquency tends to rise dramatically at the onset of puberty. Their study looked at 5,700 boys in the seventh through ninth grades in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Their results indicated moderately strong and statistically significant effects of pubertal development (PD) on all measures of delinquency. Its effects were comparable in strength to the effects of peer delinquency and school performance, two of the best predictors of delinquency. Its effects were stronger than the effects of socioeconomic status, race and family structure. Felson and Haynie also observed that pubertal development begins earlier in modern societies due to nutritional enhancements yielding a longer risk period for delinquency. The authors also identified some positive effects of PD upon boys including more autonomous behavior, better psychological adjustment, more friends and better school performance.

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

What offenses have misdemeanor level ADJC commitments committed?

Treating Teens: A Guide to Adolescent Drug Programs, <http://drugstrategies.org/teens/index.html>, This internet website was designed to help parents, judges and others make better choices about teen substance abuse treatment. The authors note that the juvenile justice system has become the *de facto* substance abuse treatment provider for juveniles and that the juvenile justice system has become the largest single referral source for youths in publicly

funded substance abuse treatment. The website provides a searchable database with information on how substance abuse treatment programs in Arizona and elsewhere implement the nine key elements of effective adolescent treatment. The nine key elements include matching treatment and assessment, taking a comprehensive and integrated treatment approach, promoting family involvement, using developmentally appropriate programs, engaging and retaining teens in treatment, having qualified staff, demonstrating gender and cultural competence, continuing care after the intervention phase and focusing upon successful outcomes.

Robert Agnew, *Experienced, Vicarious, and Anticipated Strain: An Exploratory Study of Physical Victimization and Delinquency*, Justice Quarterly, December 2002.

Agnew reports on the relationship between vicarious or anticipated strain and delinquency. A problem in the research literature noted is the tendency to see crime and victimization as two separate domains that are unrelated except that they are opposite sides to the criminal event. Vicarious strain refers to the real-life strains experienced by others around an individual and anticipated strain refers to the individual's expectation that current strains will continue into the future or that new strains will be experienced. The author found that delinquency is related not only to experienced victimization but also to certain types of anticipated and vicarious physical victimization. Agnew notes that much research has documented that experienced, vicarious and anticipated physical victimization are common among male adolescents in depressed urban areas. He contends that physical victimizations that occur to close others, are unresolved and are high in magnitude are prone to result in pressures for delinquency. Data for Agnew's study were taken from the High School Youth, Weapons and Violence survey which was based on a national sample of 734 male high school sophomores and juniors collected in 1996. He found that delinquency is strongly correlated with experienced victimization and vicarious victimization. Indeed, he found that experienced and vicarious victimization were more strongly associated with delinquency than any other independent variable examined in this study except prior delinquency.

Washington State Institute for Public Policy, *The Juvenile Justice System in Washington State: Recommendations to Improve Cost Effectiveness*, October 2002.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) was directed to conduct a comprehensive review of the costs and benefits of existing juvenile crime prevention and intervention programs and to recommend changes to the existing system that could result in more cost-effective and efficient funding. They found that while juvenile crime was declining in Washington, spending on juvenile justice spending was increasing. The main factor driving the increased spending was the increased use of confinement for juvenile offenders in both county and state facilities. In addition, they found that in 2001, 85% of the community supervision dollars spent in Washington went toward supervision related services while 15 percent was spent on treatment related services. Moreover, while lower probation and parole caseloads yielded higher system costs, they found that lowering community supervision caseloads *did not* reduce recidivism. They recommended that state funds be shifted from community supervision caseloads to research-based interventions, that state-funded treatment programs demonstrate a quality-control process, that a study be done of the costs and benefits of prevention programs and that an examination be conducted of the costs and benefits of particular aspects of Washington's juvenile sentencing grid.

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

An average of 69% of the misdemeanants sent to ADJC in FY 2001 and FY 2002 were committed for liquor possession, a misdemeanor drug offense, a public order violation, shoplifting, petty theft, criminal damage, or trespassing. Of the remaining youth, 25% were committed for misdemeanor assault or attempted aggravated assault, or a weapons offense.